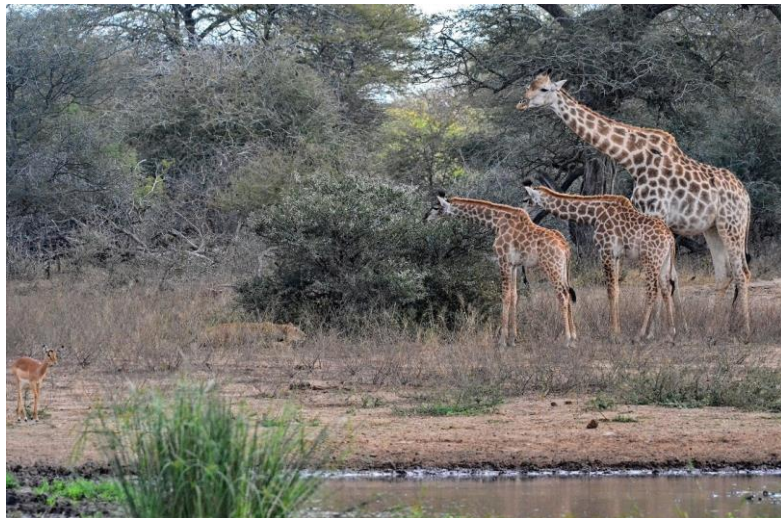# HF Happenings 762

Volume 15, Issue 25, the week of 7 August 2017

South African Radio League YL Sprint

This is a fun activity to celebrate National Women's Day between radio amateurs in South Africa, and takes place on Wednesday 9 August 2017 from 09:00 to 10:00 UTC. Call "YL Sprint!" It is a phone sprint on the 40-metre band using 7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz. The exchange is a RS report and YL or OM.

Contacts between YL stations are worth 5 points, contacts between YL and OM stations are worth 3 points and contacts between OM stations are worth 1 point. Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign YL Sprint," must be submitted by e-mail to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za by 16 August 2017.

The SARL Premier HF Contest in August

The second of the three SARL HF Contests, the HF Digital Contest, is on the air on Sunday 20 August from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC with RTTY and PSK31 activity on 20, 40 and 80 metres. See how many zones you can work per band and how many stations on all three bands. You can participate as a single operator single band station, a single operator all band station, a multi operator single band station or a multi operator all band station. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete. The exchange is a RSQ report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001.

There are two SARL trophies up for grabs in the Digital contest, but you stand a chance to win more trophies if you participate in all three contests. The rules are on page 34 of the 2017 SARL Blue Book, read the rules before the contest starts.

Logsheets must only be sent to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za

VOACAP DIY

"VOACAP Online now has an option to offer do-it-yourself HF propagation predictions, suitable for the websites of DXpeditions (and for other needs, too). Just embed a small snippet of code in your HTML codebase, and you are set to go. It's free" http://www.voacap.com/diy-charts.html.

August

1 - Tish'a B'Av
5 to 12 – IARU Region 1 YOTA Summer Camp, Gilwell Park, UK
6 – SARL HF Phone Contest
9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint
9 to 13 – ZS9V from Robben Island (AF-064)
11 to 13 - Klein Karoo Klassique, Oudsthoorn
19 and 20 - International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
20 – SARL HF Digital Contest
24 - Closing date for September Radio ZS articles
25 and 26 - Hantam Vleisfees, Calvinia
27 - SARL HF CW Contest
31 Aug to 3 Sept - Gariep Kunstefees, Kimberley

September

2 - Eid al Adha; West Rand Flea Market
3 - National Day of Prayer for the Deaf
2 and 3 - IARU Region 1 and RSGB SSB Field Day
4 - Settlers Day
6 - National Secretary's Day
9 and 10 – SARL National Field Day
16 – October RAE Registration closes
16 and 17 - All Africa All Mode Contest; SARL VHF/UHF Contest
16 to 23 IARU Region 1 General Conference, Germany
21/21 Rosh Hashana
22 – Spring Equinox; Islamic New Year
22 to 24 – 4 Peaks Challenge
23 and 24 – CQ RTTY Contest
23 Sept to 1 Oct Magoebaskloof and Haenertsburg Spring festival
24 – Heritage Day
25 – Public Holiday; closing date for October Radio ZS articles
29 – All schools close
30 - Yom Kippur
30 Sept to 2 Oct Hermanus Whale Festival

FT-8, the new HF/6 m digital mode, introduction for beginners

Here is a new digital mode that comes to you from the makers of JT-9 and JT-65. Called FT-8 (Franke-Taylor design, 8FSK modulation). A weak signal mode that is not as sensitive to JT-65/9 but definitely something that will work when voice and CW will not. This is an introduction to someone who has never heard of it, or never has used JT-65 before. It may not be for everyone, but everyone should try it. Watch FT-8, The New HF/6 m Digital Mode, Introduction for Beginners https://youtu.be/QoCngsKW9tc. Get the WSJT software at https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html

DXCC'S Most Wanted according to Club Log

The "DXCC Most Wanted" entities list has been updated on Club Log as of 31 July. The top 10 entities are:
1. P5 DPRK (North Korea)
2. 3Y/B Bouvet Island
3. FT5/W Crozet Island
4. KH1 Baker Howland Islands
5. BS7H Scarborough Reef
6. CE0X San Felix Islands
7. BV9P Pratas Island
8. KH3 Johnston Island
9. VK0M Macquarie Island
10. KH7K Kure Island

The complete "DXCC Most Wanted" entities list is available at https://secure.clublog.org/most-wanted.php

Club Log's Most Wanted List

The latest Most Wanted List, generated on 31 July is available at https://secure.clublog.org/most-wanted.php. The information is derived from QSOs uploaded to Club Log (currently 438,9 million log entries available for analysis) and to improve quality, only QSOs that have QSLs confirmed are considered to be worked. The most wanted charts are rebuilt once per month, on average.

3Y0Z Bouvet Press Release (dated 30 July)

Ralph, K0IR, sent out the following, stating, "This is a great example of how the ham radio community can cooperate and work together for the common good of all." As in any groups, the moral compass, accountability and integrity of amateur radio operators covers a wide spectrum. The best of these character qualities in the ham radio community came to light last week.

FlexRadio Systems and Ranko Boka, 4O3A, of SKY SAT wanted to be absolutely positive that they would in no way compromise the success of the Bouvet Island DXpedition. They looked at this DXpedition as a once in a lifetime experience for many DXers and put the success of 3Y0Z above personal gain, competition and acclaim. FlexRadio Systems and SKY SAT were concerned that:

a.) Parts availability for production of the FlexRadio amplifiers may be a problem.

b.) Sending a total of 14 amplifiers to Bouvet would cut into inventory they had promised to their customers.

c.) Meeting our shipping date might compromise their testing and quality control.

We will take several new FlexRadio Power Genius XL amplifiers to Bouvet. However, FlexRadio and Ranko reached out personally to ACOM to assist in supporting 3Y0Z. On short notice and within 24 hours, ACOM agreed to help make the Bouvet DXpedition the best that it can be and agreed to provide 12 ACOM 1500 amplifiers.

ACOM, FlexRadio Systems and SKY SAT/4O3A put aside personal gain and competition and worked together to help the Bouvet Island DXpedition be a better experience for you the DX'ers. These are truly quality people.

Ralph Fedor, K0IR, Bouvet Island DXpedition Co-Leader

Link to associated web page http://www.bouvetdx.org/acom-flex-doc

3Y0Z Bouvet Press Release (dated 5 August)

The Northern California DX Foundation is pleased to announce a contribution of $100 000 to the 3Y0Z Bouvet Island DXpedition planned for January 2018. Bouvet is #2 on the ClubLog Most Wanted List. This is the largest contribution in the history of NCDXF.

In 2016, NCDXF-sponsored DXpeditions activated five of the ten most- needed entities. These DXpeditions put 457 000 QSOs into DXers' logs.

That year we spent $156 000 to fund these and other DXpeditions. The 3Y0Z DXpedition to Bouvet Island early next year is likely to be one of the most expensive DXpeditions ever attempted – estimated at over $740 000. The 20 team members have already contributed just over half of this amount.

www.bouvetdx.org has details of the 3Y0Z Bouvet DXpedition. DXpeditions to rare entities like Bouvet and others in the Southern Ocean are becoming more expensive, a trend that we believe will continue.
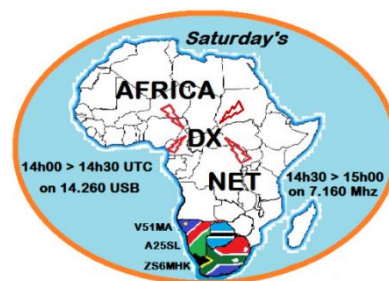
NCDXF's primary purpose is to help fund well-organized DXpeditions to rare, difficult and expensive entities, like Bouvet. During the last 45 years, NCDXF has granted over $1 million to hundreds of DXpeditions – helping to put an "all-time-new-one" (ATNO) in the log and make DX happen for thousands of DXers worldwide. The credit for these large grants goes to the NCDXF contributors, individuals and clubs who support the DX community. Without those contributions, DXpeditions to entities like Bouvet or other rare locations would not be possible.

If you agree with the importance of NCDXF's work, and if you are not a current contributor, we hope you will become one today by clicking here http://ncdxf.org/pages/join_renew.html. Your contribution will continue to help make DX happen. You can also support future DXpeditions by including the NCDXF Cycle 25 Fund in your estate plan http://ncdxf.org/pages/estate.html.

We wish the 3Y0Z team a safe and very successful trip to Bouvet Island next year.
73, Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, NCDXF Vice President http://www.ncdxf.org

African DX

Rwanda, 9X. Alan, KE4TA, will be active as 9X0TA from Kigali for a 3-year period sometime early August. This will be his first 'DXpedition'. Activity will be primarily on 20 and 17 metres using 600 W/100 W of power. He does have antennas or antenna + tuner combinations for 80 to 10 metres and 6 m. Modes will be SSB, the digital modes and some CW. Power may be restricted by the Rwandan authorities in accordance with their laws. Radio is a Yaesu FT-991 and antenna will be a Hexbeam on a push up tower. Alan, states, "Noise levels here are extremely high. Please don't be offended if I am not answering your call, I likely cannot hear you." QSL via DIRECT to N4GNR. He will also use LoTW. For more details, pictures and updates (maybe even an operating schedule), visit his Web page at www.rwandadx.com

XT2, Burkina Faso (Update). Harald, DF2WO, will once again be active as XT2AW from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. He informs that he will arrive on 25 September and plans to build antennas on the 26th, which is a Hexbeam at 8 metres high and dipoles for the lower bands. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and the digital modes. He states that he works mostly on the digital modes (PSK31, JT65 and RTTY) and slow CW. Harald states, "As soon as the conditions go up to USA, I will work the US. Also, I will test 60 m a little." Radio is a FT-450D. QSL via M0OXO, direct or OQRS http://www.m0oxo.com/oqrs/.

Tanzania, 5H. Chas, NK8O/VE3ISD, will once again be active as 5H3DX from Zinga, Tanzania, between 7 November and 4 December. Activity will be from the paediatric hospital at Zinga, usual operations will be holiday style. Power output will be the legal limit for Tanzania at 100 w and the primary antenna should be a Hexbeam configured for 40 to 6 metres, including the WARC bands. Operations will be primarily CW. He states that he will use a simple wire antenna and his KX3 with a KXPA100 amp. See QSL info on QRZ.com. Also, QSL via LoTW and eQSL. NO Bureau.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Mauritius, 3B8. Hans, PA3HGT, will be active as 3B8/PA3HGT from Mauritius (AF-049) between 5 and 22 September. Activity will be holiday style on 40, 20 and 10 metres using mainly SSB and sometimes the digital modes. Equipment he will use is an Icom IC-7100 transceiver into an End-Fed antenna. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau, direct or LoTW.

Guinea, 3XY (IOTA Op). Alain, F5OZC and Sebastien, F8DQZ will once again be active as 3XY3D from Kassa Island (AF-051), Los Islands (Iles de Los), between 1 and 30 November. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using mainly CW. QSL via F5OZC, by the REF Bureau or direct (no eQSL, no LoTW).

Guinea Bissau, J5 (Update). The Italian DXpedition Team will be active as J5T from Bubaque Island (AF-020) between 13 and 25 November. Operators mentioned are Alfeo, I1HJT, Silvano, I2YSB, Vinicio, IK2CIO, Angelo, IK2CKR, Marcello, IK2DIA, Stefano, IK2HKT, Angelo, IK2RZP and Mac, JA3USA. They expect to have 4 stations on all HF bands (no 50 MHz), using CW and SSB, and RTTY one band only, to be chosen. You can participate in the J5T survey on their official Web site at http://www.i2ysb.com/idt. Subject to the availability of internet connection, the real time Log will be available at http://win.i2ysb.com/logonline. The official forum is at www.hamradioweb.net. QSL via I2YSB direct, OQRS or LoTW.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 7 to 14 August 2017

ARS Spartan Sprint
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 August
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Skinny; Tubby
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power
Work stations: Once per band
Submit logs by: 10 August 2017
E-mail logs to: spartansprint@yahoo.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://arsqrp.blog-spot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html

NAQCC CW Sprint
00:30 - 02:30 UTC 9 August
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once;
Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 13 August 2017
E-mail logs to: naqcc33@windstream.net
jcoreyc@gmail.com
Upload log at: http://naqcc.info/sprint_sub-mit_log.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201708.html

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 August
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 11 August 2017
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.per-luma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 10 August
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and Member No.; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 12 August 2017
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 11 August
Geographic Focus: United States
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 12 August 2017
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 11 August
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 13 August 2017
E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 August
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 13 August 2017
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

WAE DX CW Contest
00:00 UTC 12 August to 23:59 UTC 13 August
Geographic Focus: Europe
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - high or low; Multi-Op; SWL
Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours, off times of at least 60 minutes
Multi-Op: 48 hours
Max power: HP: >100 Watts; LP: 100 Watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 28 August 2017
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://www.darc.de/der-club/refer-ate/dx/contest/waedc/logupload/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.darc.de/der-club/refer-ate/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-con-test/en/

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
12:00 UTC 12 August to 24:00 UTC 13 August
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max operating hours: 24
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or "NONE"
Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 20 August 2017
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

Maryland-DC QSO Party
16:00 UTC 12 August to 04:00 UTC 13 August and 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 13 August
Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, 432
Classes: Standard; Mobile; Club; QRP
Exchange: MDC: entry class and county; non-MDC: entry class and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with club station; 5 points per QSO with mobile station; 4 points per QSO with QRP station; 3 points per QSO with CW/digital station; 1 point per QSO for all other stations; Bonus: 50 points for at least one QSO with W3VPR
Multipliers: MDC: Each MD county, DC, Baltimore City, once only; MDC: Each state (other than MD),

VE province and country once only; non-MDC: Each MD county, DC, Baltimore City, once only
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 12 September 2017
E-mail logs to: MDQSOP@w3vpr.org
Upload log at: http://www.w3vpr.org/node/162
Mail logs to: MDC QSO Party, PO Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035, USA
Find rules at: http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/Maryland_QSO_Party_Rules_2014.pdf

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint
00:00 - 02:00 UTC 14 August
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: Member: RS(T), state, province or country and member no; Non-member: RS(T), state, province or country and power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 31 August 2017
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://qrpcontest.com/4sqrp
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.4sqrp.com/SSS/sss_rules.pdf

Antarctic/DXpedition videos

3Y0PI - Cape Eva Camp - Peter 1 Island - www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYRy94cFK4M
FB8AX - Port Martin - Antarctica - www.canalu.mobi/video/cerimes/antarctique.9055 (from 3 minutes 50 seconds to 26 m 50 s in French)
FT5XO - Port Jeanne d'Arc - Big Island of Kerguelen - www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXJgL8ukIuA
FT5YJ - Port Charcot - Wandel island, Antarctica - www.youtube.com/watch?v=poMxAnKhzwM
LU/FT5YJ - Almirante Brown - Antarctica - www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPQYa25hC20
VK0EK - Atlas Cove - Heard Island - www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fFt-E6DWdc
VK0IR - Atlas Cove - Heard Island - https://vimeo.com/121445124
VP8DLM - Base O -Danco Island Antarctica - www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ONE3psnJG4
VP8GEO - Husvik Whaling Station - Big Island of South Georgia - https://vimeo.com/121317595
VP8ORK - Waterpipe Refuge - Signy Island, South Orkney - https://vimeo.com/121222178
VP8SGI - Husvik - South Georgia Island - https://vimeo.com/167696385
VP8SSI - Corbeta Uruguay Station and Teniente Esquivel Refuge - Thule Island, South Sandwich - www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5B2oo9-Sjw
VP8SSI - (2) Lost Footage - www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X0SUzptjzw
VP8STI - Corbeta Uruguay & Teniente Esquivel Refuge - Thule Island, South Sandwich - https://vimeo.com/170266606
VP8THU - Corbeta Uruguay and Teniente Esquivel Refuge - Thule Island, South Sandwich - https://vimeo.com/121317593
ZL9CI - Campbell Island Station - https://vimeo.com/121857792

Next Week's Contests

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 16 August
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 16 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 17 August
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 18 August
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 18 August
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 August
SARTG WW RTTY Contest, 00:00 - 08:00 UTC and 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 19 August and 08:00 - 16:00 UTC 20 August
Russian District Award Contest, 08:00 UTC 19 August to 08:00 UTC 20 August
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest, 12:00 UTC 19 August to 12:00 UTC 20 August
Feld Hell Sprint, 16:00 - 17:59 UTC 19 August
North American SSB QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 19 August to 05:59 UTC 20 August
CVA DX CW Contest, 21:00 UTC 19 August to 21:00 UTC 20 August
SARL HF Digital Contest, 13:00 – 16:30 UTC 20 August
ARRL RTTY Rookie Roundup, 18:00 - 23:59 UTC 20 August
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 21 August
Solar Eclipse QSO Party, 14:00 – 22:00 UTC 21 August

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA - News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter